



# United States

## 2005 KEY VOLUNTEER STATISTICS

NATIONAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS	65.4 million
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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER RATE	28.8%
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ANNUAL HOURS VOLUNTEERED PER PERSON	50 hours
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TOP VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES	
Mentor, tutor, coach or referee	35.0%
Fundraise or sell items to raise money	29.7%
Collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food	26.3%

CHANGE IN VOLUNTEER NUMBERS (2002-2005): Increase of 5.6 million (59.8 million to 65.4 million)
CHANGE IN VOLUNTEER RATE (2002-2005): Increase of 1.4% (from 27.4% to 28.8% but the rate has been constant for the last two years after a 1.4% increase between 2002 and 2003)

TOP 10 STATES FOR VOLUNTEER RATE		BOTTOM 5 STATES FOR VOLUNTEER RATE	
	RATE		RATE
1. UTAH	48%	47. West Virginia	24.6%
2. NEBRASKA	42.8%	48. Florida	24.1%
3. MINNESOTA	40.7%	49. Louisiana	22.7%
4. IOWA	39.2%	50. New York	21.3%
5. ALASKA	38.9%	51. Nevada	18.8%
6. WYOMING	38.8%		
6. SOUTH DAKOTA	38.8%		
8. KANSAS	38.6%		
9. VERMONT	38.1%		
10. MONTANA	37.9%		

TOP 5 STATES FOR ANNUAL HOURS VOLUNTEERED PER PERSON		BOTTOM 5 STATES FOR ANNUAL HOURS VOLUNTEERED PER PERSON	
	HOURS		HOURS
1. UTAH	96	47. Nebraska	44
2. IDAHO	64	48. Iowa	43
3. ARIZONA	60	49. South Dakota	40
3. MARYLAND	60	49. Wisconsin	40
3. MONTANA	60	51. North Dakota	36

TOP 10 STATES FOR SENIOR VOLUNTEERING (65+ YEARS OLD)		BOTTOM 6 STATES FOR SENIOR VOLUNTEERING (65+ YEARS OLD)	
	RATE		RATE
1. UTAH	51.8%	46. Louisiana	18.6%
2. MINNESOTA	42.2%	46. Tennessee	18.6%
3. NEBRASKA	40.6%	46. Rhode Island	18.6%
4. SOUTH DAKOTA	38%	49. Hawaii	17.6%
5. NORTH DAKOTA	35.7%	50. New York	17.4%
6. IOWA	35.5%	51. Nevada	13.7%
7. KANSAS	34.9%		
8. WASHINGTON	32.8%		
9. OREGON	32%		
10. VERMONT	31.8%		



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TOP 10 STATES FOR COLLEGE STUDENT VOLUNTEER RATE		BOTTOM 5 STATES FOR COLLEGE STUDENT VOLUNTEER RATE	
	RATE		RATE
1. UTAH	62.9%	47. Massachusetts	24.0%
2. IDAHO	44.4%	47. Tennessee	24.0%
3. OKLAHOMA	43.0%	49. Nevada	23.6%
4. VERMONT	41.5%	50. New York	23.4%
4. NEBRASKA	41.5%	51. Georgia	21.4%
6. WYOMING	40.3%		
7. ALASKA	40.1%		
8. MINNESOTA	39.9%		
9. MISSOURI	38.9%		
10. COLORADO	38.3%		

VOLUNTEER RATES BY REGION OF THE COUNTRY	
1. MIDWEST	33.3%
2. WEST	29.2%
3. SOUTH	27.4%
4. NORTHEAST	25.8%

## NATIONAL FACTS

- The greatest percentage of volunteers in the U.S. volunteer primarily through religious organizations.
- In 2005, 65.4 million Americans contributed 8.2 billion hours of volunteer service, totaling nearly \$150 billion in service to America.
- In every state, females volunteer at a higher rate than males. Nationally, women who work volunteer at higher rates than women who are not in the labor force.
- The nonprofit and public sectors volunteer at a 47.6 and 42.2 percent respectively compared to those in the private sector at 27.1 percent.
- The largest groups of people who volunteer are between the ages of 35 and 44, including members of both Generation X and baby boomers.
- More than 25 million baby boomers performed volunteer work annually between 2003 and 2005.
- More than 8 million young adults (16-24 years old) performed volunteer work annually throughout the U.S. between 2003 and 2005.
- Over 3 million college students volunteered annually in the U.S. between 2003 and 2005.
- Almost half of all Black Americans (45.5%) volunteer through a religious organization while 37.1% of Hispanics and 33.8% of Whites (non-Hispanics) do.

## STATE TRENDS

- In general, volunteering is more prevalent in the northern half of the country (with exceptions in such states as New York, West Virginia, and Rhode Island).
- Between 2002 and 2003, the volunteer rate went up in every region of the country. Between 2003 and 2005, the volunteer rate went up in every region except the Northeast, where it declined slightly.
- The South (2.4 million additional volunteers) and West (2 million additional volunteers) are particularly responsible for the growth in volunteering since 2002.
- In general, volunteer rates for minorities (race and ethnicity) are substantially lower than non-Hispanic whites in most states.
- Individuals in the Midwest volunteer at higher rates than other regions, while individuals in the West typically give the most hours per volunteer.



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## SAMPLING OF STATE FACTS

- The highest and lowest ranked “Volunteer” states share borders - Utah at 48 percent and Nevada at 18.8 percent.
- Idaho has more volunteers (8.3%) than any other state that provide 500 or more hours of service per year.
- Arizona seniors (65+) typically volunteer 156 hours annually – 60 hours more than the typical senior volunteer and more than three times the amount of hours typically given by all volunteers.
- On average, Californians annually donated over 940 million volunteer hours between 2003 and 2005.
- Washington, DC has the highest percentage of volunteers working in civic, political, professional, or international organizations.
- The West Coast donates the highest average number of hours per year per individual at 51 hours.
- The popularity of volunteer activities varies substantially by state:
  - Coaching and mentoring are the most popular activity in California, Nevada and South Carolina;
  - Supplying transportation and general labor are the most popular volunteer activity in Alaska and Nebraska;
  - Fundraising and selling items are the most common activities for Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, and New York volunteers; and
  - Collecting, preparing, and distributing food is the most common volunteer activity in Mississippi.

## OTHER RELATED RESEARCH

The following reports can be found in the Research and Policy section at [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov)

Highlights from the *Youth Helping America Series*:

- America's youth are engaging in their communities at substantial levels. In 2004, 15.5 million youth aged 12 to 18 volunteered with an organization, contributing over 1.3 billion hours of service.
- A youth from a family where at least one parent volunteers is almost twice as likely to volunteer as a youth with no family members who volunteer, and nearly three times as likely to volunteer regularly.
- Youth who attend religious services regularly are nearly twice as likely to be regular volunteers as those who do not attend services.
- 38 percent of youth, an estimated 10.6 million teenagers, have engaged in community service as part of a school activity.
- Youth who report current or past participation in high quality service-learning courses are almost three times as likely to believe they can make a great deal of difference in their community than youth who participated in school-based service without any of the quality elements of service-learning.

Highlights from *Volunteer Mentoring Youth: Implication for Closing the Mentoring Gap*:

- Mentors prominently volunteer through religious organizations (43%).
- Black volunteers are more likely than Caucasian volunteers to mentor youth.
- Volunteers 16 to 24 years old are the most likely age group to engage in mentoring.

Highlights from *Volunteer Management Capacity in America's Charities and Congregations*:

- 90% of charities and congregations say that volunteers increase the quality of their service, reduce costs, and increase public support for their organization.
- Three volunteer management practices produce higher volunteer retention rates, specifically 1) recognition activities, 2) screening and matching volunteers for assignments, and 3) training and professional development for volunteers.

These statistics come from *Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings*, released by the Corporation for National and Community Service in June, 2006. Data in the report were obtained from the US Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics through a “volunteering supplement” to the Current Population Survey (CPS) from 2002 to 2005. The volunteer supplement to the CPS is administered annually to approximately 60,000 households nationwide.